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State and northern Michigan public groups partner in first-ever Traverse City surplus auction

TRAVERSE CITY – Surplus vehicles and confiscated property are among items to be offered at a Department of Management and Budget-sponsored auction Saturday, May 19, at the Northwest Michigan Fairgrounds, Traverse City. Prospective buyers may examine bid items Friday, May 18, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 8 to 9:30 a.m. The auction begins at 10 a.m.

The bid list includes surplus vehicles, boats and motors, snowmobiles, ATVs and office equipment from the State of Michigan and northwest Michigan school districts and governmental units. Prospective buyers also may bid on weapons, a big-screen television, a front-loading washer and dryer and other items seized by area drug enforcement units.

This is the first time the State is holding one of its sales in northwest Michigan, said Kevin Lancto, manager of the State's surplus program. "We are holding the auction in Traverse City so that schools and governmental units can join with the State to sell their surplus property, get the best value for their resale dollars, and save auction costs," he said.

The Department of Management and Budget holds regular surplus auctions in Lansing. It also sells property from its online auction site and at its Lansing surplus store. Schools and governments also may use these resources to sell surplus items and receive proceeds from the sales, minus a nominal service fee.

The bid list for the Traverse City auction, as well as dates of other upcoming auctions, can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/surplus. The online auction site can be found at www.michigan.gov/mibid.

Successful bidders at the May 19 auction must pay at the time of purchase using cash, MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express or checks made payable to the State of Michigan. Buyers must remove purchases from the fairgrounds by Tuesday, May 22.

More information about the auction is available by calling (517) 335-8816.

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